

Please delete Claims 1-17, without prejudice.

Please add the following statement, wherever applicable:

*GAK*  
*9-16-03* -- This application is a divisional patent application of Serial No. 09/410,728, filed October 1, 1999 <sup>now Pat No. 6,355,320</sup> for a Synthetic Closure and Manufacturing Process Thereof. --

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to place this application in order and in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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